



October 25, 2023

Virginia Board of Education
101 North 14th Street
Richmond, VA 23219

RE: Position Letter - SOQ Recommendations

Dear Members of the Board,

The Virginia Public Education Coalition (VPEC) provides a unified voice in advocating for and improving K-12 education in the Commonwealth of Virginia and believes that public education provides direct benefits to students and families, as well as society at large. Our interest in the revision process to the Standards of Quality led us to submit a set of recommendations. For your reference, we are including our recent letter for budget recommendations as an attachment.

We recommend:

- Review the 2019-2022 VBOE SOQ revisions as a foundation on which to build
- Implement the following recommendations from the [JLARC REPORT](#)
 - Adjust and fund staffing ratios based on actual ratios in schools
 - Eliminate the support cap
 - Use the division average to calculate salary instead of the linear weighted average
 - Establish the At-Risk Add-On supplemental funding using the more representative weighted Identified Student Percentage (ISP) measure (JLARC [Recommendation #10](#))
 - In addition to funding actual ratios in schools (recommendation 1 above), we recommend the following add-on structures :
 - Fund the At-Risk Program (Table 9-4)
 - Fund the Special Education increase (Table 9-4)
 - Fund English learner programs (Table 9-4)
 - Fund CTE (Table 9-4)
 - Fund gifted education (Table 9-4)

- Implement principal mentorship program
- Increase support for small school divisions

The below signed organizations are prepared to serve as a source of input on any and all decisions affecting the education of Virginia’s students moving forward.

Respectfully,

Virginia Association of Colleges
for Teacher Education

Virginia Association of
Elementary School Principals

Virginia Association of School
Superintendents

Virginia Association of
Secondary School Principals

Virginia School Boards
Association

Virginia Association for Supervision and
Curriculum Development

Virginia Counselors Association

Virginia Education Association

Virginia Middle School Association

Virginia Parent Teacher
Association

Virginia School Counselor
Association

Virginia Professors of Educational
Leadership

[ATTACHMENT](#), Budget Recommendations Letter